

Independent Hill, Virginia  
PWCSB08-46/47  
December 17, 2008  
Closed Session/Regular Meeting

## **PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES**

The Prince William County School Board met in the Board Room at Independent Hill, Virginia, on December 17, 2008. Present were Chairman Milton C. Johns; Vice-Chairman, Grant Lattin; Board Members, Betty D. Covington; Julie C. Lucas; Dr. Michael I. Otaigbe; Denita S. Ramirez; Don Richardson; and Gil Trenum; Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Steven L. Walts; School Board Attorney, Mary McGowan, and Clerk to the School Board, Eva Thorpe. Chairman Johns called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION AGENDA**

Mr. Lattin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ramirez, that the Prince William County School Board approve the closed session agenda as recommended:

Meeting Called to Order

Approval of Closed Session Agenda

Motion to Enter Closed Session

Approval of Closed Session Consent Agenda

Appointments and Release of Specific Employees

Parent Appeal of OSMAP Recommendation for the Placement of Student PLC09-002

Legal Matters

Consultation with Counsel and Staff Regarding Legal Issues Associated with Objective 4.3.1 of Goal 4 of the Prince William County Schools Strategic Plan

Consultation with Counsel and Staff Regarding Legal Review and Revision of Certain Management Practices, Policies, and Regulation

Closed Session Certification

Adjourn

Recorded Vote: Yes: Unanimous

### **CLOSED SESSION MOTION**

Mr. Lattin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trenum, that, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711, the Prince William County School Board enter Closed Session for the following reasons:

- (1) To discuss and approve the appointments and release of specific employees under Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1);

- (2) To review the petition for appeal of the placement of student PLC09-002 under Sections 2.2-3711 (A) (1) and (7);
- (3) To consult with counsel and staff regarding legal issues associated with Objective 4.3.1 of Goal 4 of the PWCS Strategic Plan under Section 2.2-3711 (A) (7); and
- (4) To consult with legal counsel and the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent regarding legal review and revision of certain management practices, policies, and regulations under Section 2.2-3711 (A) (7).

Recorded Vote: Yes: Unanimous

The Board entered closed session at 6:05 p.m., and returned to open session at 7:00 p.m.

### **CLOSED SESSION CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Lattin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trenum, that the Prince William County School Board approve the closed session consent agenda as recommended:

1. Appointments & Release of Specific Employees  
That the Prince William County School Board receive information and approve the appointments and release of specific employees pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1). Employees are subject to a background check by the Office of Risk Management and Security, if necessary, and any other prerequisites to employment.
2. Parent Appeal of OSMAP Recommendation for the Placement of Student PLC09-002  
That, for the reasons set forth in OSMAP's letter of November 17, 2008, the Prince William County School Board approve staff's recommendation to place Student PLC09-002 at New Dominion Alternative Center.

Recorded Vote: Yes, Unanimous

### **CLOSED SESSION CERTIFICATION**

Mr. Lattin made a motion, seconded by Dr. Otaigbe, that pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3712, the Closed Session of the Prince William County School Board meeting of December 17, 2008, be certified by adopting the following resolution:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William County School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each members knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard and discussed or considered by the School Board.

Recorded Vote: Yes, Unanimous

### **PUBLIC MEETING**

Chairman Johns called the public meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A moment of silence was observed at the request of Mr. Richardson, and members from Cub/Boy Scout Troop 454 led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

### **APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA**

Mr. Lattin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Covington, that the Prince William County School Board approve the public meeting agenda as recommended:

Meeting Called to Order  
Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag  
Approval of Public Meeting Agenda  
Adoption of Consent Agenda  
Bullying Prevention Month  
School Board Meeting Minutes, December 3, 2008  
Disciplinary Committee Minutes, December 9 and 10, 2008  
Request for School Board to Approve and Sign off on Recognized School Counselor Association (ASCA) Model Program Application for Potomac View Elementary School  
Right-of-Way and Easements for Road Improvements at 11th High School - Wright Agreement of Sale  
Right-of-Way and Easements for Road Improvements at 11th High School - Nuth Agreement of Sale  
Special Warrant for School Board Review and Approval of Payroll - November 2008  
Easements - Freedom High School  
Ann Ludwig School Site - Town Center Easements  
Citizen Comments  
Student Learning and Accountability  
2009-2010 School Calendar  
SAT Update  
Finance and Support Services  
Contract Award - 11th High School (IFB #S-LB-9603)  
Cricket Communications, Inc. Lease at Hylton High School  
Superintendent's Time  
Board Matters  
Revisions to Policy 295, Standards for Use of Telecommunications and Internet Technologies and Deletion of Policy 295.01, Internet Web Site Privacy  
Reinstate President's Day  
Adjourn

Recorded Vote: Yes, Unanimous

**ADOPTION OF PUBLIC MEETING CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Lattin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Covington, that the Prince William County School Board approve the public meeting consent agenda as recommended:  
Ms. Ramirez requested that Ann Ludwig School Site, Town Center Easements be removed from the Consent Agenda and be placed under Finance and Support Services for discussion.

1. Bullying Prevention Month  
That the Prince William County School Board proclaim the month of January 2009 as Bullying Prevention Month and authorize the Chairman of the School Board and Superintendent of Schools to sign the resolution.
2. School Board Meeting Minutes, December 3, 2008  
That the Prince William County School Board approve the School Board minutes for the December 3, 2008 meeting.
3. Disciplinary Committee Minutes, December 9 and 10, 2008  
That the Prince William County School Board receive and approve the Disciplinary Committee minutes of December 9 and 10, 2008.
4. Request for School Board to Approve and Sign off on Recognized American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Model Program Application for Potomac View Elementary School  
That the Prince William County School Board approve the application for Recognized ASCA Model Program status. As a requirement in the application process, Potomac View Elementary School counselors must submit a copy of the School Board minutes or agenda stating that the School Board has been presented with the application.
5. Right-of-Way and Easements for Road Improvements at 11th High School - Wright Agreement of Sale  
That the Prince William County School Board authorize the Agreement of Sale to acquire the necessary right-of-way and easement from Pauline Wright's property located at 12705 Vint Hill Road, GPIN 7495-71-0615, for \$6,000. Further, that the School Board authorize the Chairman to sign the documents necessary for this acquisition, including any amendments to the attached document that does not substantially alter the agreement as indicated on instruments acceptable to the School Board attorney by signature "approved as to form" thereon.
6. Right-of-Way and Easements for Road Improvements at 11th High School - Nuth Agreement of Sale  
That the Prince William County School Board authorize the Agreement of Sale to acquire the necessary right-of-way and easements from Polly Nuth's property located

at 10355 Kettle Run Road, GPIN 7495-60-6926, for \$40,000. Further, that the School Board authorize the Chairman to sign the documents necessary for this acquisition, including any amendments to the attached document that does not substantially alter the agreement as indicated on instruments acceptable to the School Board attorney by signature "approved as to form" thereon.

7. Special Warrant for School Board Review and Approval of Payroll - November 2008  
That the Prince William County School Board approve the payrolls for November 2008 in the amount of \$44,203,602.17 as shown on the attached recapitulation sheet.
8. Easements - Freedom High School  
That the Prince William County School Board hereby grant the requested temporary construction easement and soil reinforcement zone easement at Freedom High School to Trustees of Harvest Life Changers Church, International as outlined in the attached Deed of Easements and Vacation. Further, the Chairman and Clerk are authorized to sign any necessary documents including any amendments to the attached document that do not substantially alter the agreement, subject to approval for form only by the School Board attorney.

Recorded Vote: Yes, Unanimous

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

A citizen addressed the School Board regarding the construction contract for the 11<sup>th</sup> high school.

### **STUDENT LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Ms. Lucas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Richardson, that the Prince William County School Board approve the 2009-2010 School Calendar as proposed by staff with the following changes: that December 23 is a half day instead of early release, and that the last day of school is Friday, June 18.

Mr. Lattin made a substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Covington, that the Prince William County School Board approve the 2009-2010 School Calendar as proposed by staff with the following changes: that school be released two hours early on December 23 and that the last day of school will be Friday, June 18.

Recorded Vote: Yes, Covington, Lattin, Lucas, Otaigbe, Ramirez, Richardson, Trenum  
No, Johns

Ms. Gauch, Associate Superintendent for Student Learning and Accountability, introduced Ken Bassett, Supervisor of Social Studies, who provided an SAT update. Elementary and middle schools are cultivating a "college-going" culture. High school students are selecting challenging courses and developing literacy plans and are taking and

scoring well on SAT and/or ACT. SAT performance scores were provided that compared PWCS to Virginia and the nation. The percentage of students taking SAT and ACT was shared as well as the challenges associated with improving scores.

### **FINANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

Mr. Trenum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Richardson, that the Prince William County School Board approve the award of a contract for the construction of the 11th high school to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Hess Construction Company of Maryland, Inc., in the total amount of \$70,699,000.00.

Mr. Lattin made a substitute motion, seconded by Dr. Otaigbe that the Prince William County School Board postpone the vote on the 11<sup>th</sup> high school contract award until January 7, 2009.

Recorded Vote: Yes, Covington, Johns, Lattin, Otaigbe, Ramirez, Richardson  
No, Lucas, Trenum

Dr. Walts requested that Cricket Communications, Inc. Lease at Hylton High School be removed from the agenda.

Ms. Ramirez made a motion, seconded by Ms. Covington, that the Prince William County School Board hereby grant the requested easements and approve the Buffer Allocation Agreement at Ann Ludwig School to Town Center Properties, LLC, as outlined in the attached Deed of Dedication and Easement and Buffer Allocation Agreement. Further, the Chairman and Clerk are authorized to sign any necessary documents including any amendments to the attached documents that do not substantially alter the agreement, subject to approval for form only by the School Board attorney.

Recorded Vote: Yes, Covington, Johns, Lattin, Otaigbe, Ramirez, Richardson, Trenum  
Absent, Lucas

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S TIME**

Dr. Walts congratulated all of the high schools for making *The Washington Post* 2008 Challenge Index list of the top 150 schools in the Washington region. All Prince William County high schools are ranked in the top six percent of United States high schools. He wished the Sinclair community a happy 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. Dr. Walts shared an update on the process of naming a governor's school. A contest will be held amongst the schools to submit names and logos. Dr. Walts visited Montclair Elementary School where he was provided a tour of Native American artifacts as well as study and research done by fifth graders. Two students in the fourth grade presented him with a picture of a quality superintendent.

**BOARD MATTERS**

Mr. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trenum, that the Prince William County School Board approve the proposed revisions to Policy 295, Standards for Use of Telecommunications and Internet Technologies and the Proposed Deletion of Policy 295.01, Internet Web Site Privacy.

Recorded Vote: Yes, Unanimous

Mr. Lattin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ramirez, that the Prince William County School Board reinstate Presidents' Day as a holiday for the 2008-2009 school year.

Recorded Vote: Yes, Unanimous

Ms. Ramirez did not have any comments.

Dr. Otaigbe encouraged parents to communicate with their students. If there are situations, communicate with the teacher. If issues aren't resolved, speak to the principal. If issues are still not resolved, contact the principal's supervisor.

Ms. Lucas appreciates emails, but she doesn't have staff that work directly for her, so she is sorry if she doesn't respond to all emails. However, she does read every email. Ms. Lucas thanked Ms. Coleman, principal at Rippon Middle School, and Ms. Abrams, principal at Godwin Middle School for meeting with her. She is concerned about the conditions at some of our schools. She wished everyone a safe and happy winter break. She encouraged parents to sign up for E-News.

Mr. Lattin did not have any comments.

Ms. Covington enjoyed the musical program performed by Forest Park High School students at Pattie Elementary School. She wished Pam Gauch and Bernie Posey farewell and thanked them for their years of service. Ms. Covington thanked Mr. Johns for attending the Dumfries parade. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Richardson enjoyed helping Sinclair Elementary celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Sinclair is a School of Excellence and one of only three Title I schools in the county that have that honor this year. Sinclair recently had a renovation and it really makes a difference; to them it is a brand new school. He asked his fellow Board members to take a few minutes and reflect on the practice of governance. There is a process that governing bodies go through and it sometimes seems cumbersome and slow and things don't get done as quickly as we'd like. There is a reason for the process; it is there to keep from making mistakes. He is serious in that once we adopt a calendar, absent truly catastrophic needs, it shouldn't be changed. People make plans well in advance based on decisions the Board makes. He didn't have a problem with making Inauguration Day a holiday. He had an issue with the way they did it and when they did it.

Mr. Trenum wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Johns thanked his fellow Board members. There were some heated discussions and there are strong policy differences on a number of issues. Each member is operating in the best interest of the children. There will be disagreements in the future on topics, but that is the beauty and messiness of democracy. He did not claim any personal offense that he may have made. Mr. Johns extended his best wishes for the holidays and a safe, healthy and prosperous new year.

There being no other matters for Board consideration, Chairman Johns declared this meeting adjourned at 11:07 p.m.

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Milton C. Johns, Chairman

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Eva Thorpe, Clerk